

## Substitute Bill No. 930

January Session, 2003

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subdivision (59) of subsection (a) of section 14-1 of the
- 2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
- 3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):
- 4 (59) "Passenger motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the
- 5 private transportation of persons and their personal belongings,
- 6 designed to carry occupants in comfort and safety, [with not less than
- 7 fifty per cent of the total area enclosed by the outermost body contour
- 8 lines, excluding the area enclosing the engine, as seen in a plan view,
- 9 utilized for designated seating positions and necessary legroom] with
- 10 a capacity of carrying not more than ten passengers including the
- 11 operator thereof.
- 12 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 14-10 of the general statutes is
- 13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective
- 14 October 1, 2003):
- 15 (c) (1) All records of the Department of Motor Vehicles pertaining to
- 16 the application for registration, and the registration, of motor vehicles
- 17 of the current or previous three years shall be maintained by the
- 18 commissioner at the main office of the department. Any such records
- 19 over three years old may be destroyed at the discretion of the

- commissioner. (2) Before disclosing personal information pertaining to an applicant or registrant from such motor vehicle records or allowing the inspection of any such record containing such personal information in the course of any transaction conducted at such main office, the commissioner shall ascertain whether such disclosure is authorized under subsection (f) of this section, and require the person or entity making the request to (A) complete an application that shall be on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and (B) provide two forms of acceptable identification. [, and (C) pay a fee of fifteen dollars to the commissioner in addition to any fee required under section 14-50a.] An attorney-at-law admitted to practice in this state may provide his or her juris number to the commissioner in lieu of the requirements of subparagraph (B) of this subdivision. The commissioner may disclose such personal information or permit the inspection of such record containing such information only if such disclosure is authorized under subsection (f) of this section, as amended by this act.
- 36 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 14-10 of the general statutes is 37 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 38 1, 2003):
  - (f) The commissioner may disclose personal information from a motor vehicle record to:
- 41 (1) Any federal, state or local government agency in carrying out its 42 functions or to any individual or entity acting on behalf of any such 43 agency, or
  - (2) Any individual, organization or entity that signs and files with the commissioner, under penalty of false statement as provided in section 53a-157b, a statement on a form approved by the commissioner, together with such supporting documentation or information as the commissioner may require, that such information will be used for any of the following purposes:
  - (A) In connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft, motor vehicle emissions, motor vehicle product alterations,

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- 52 recalls or advisories, performance monitoring of motor vehicles and 53 dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers and removal of nonowner 54 records from the original owner records of motor vehicle 55 manufacturers to implement the provisions of the federal Automobile 56 Information Disclosure Act, 15 USC 1231 et seq., [the Motor Vehicle 57 Information and Cost Saving Act, 15 USC 1901 et seq., the National 58 Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, 15 USC 1381 et seq., Anti-59 Car Theft Act of 1992, 15 USC 2021 et seq., and] the Clean Air Act, 42 60 USC 7401 et seq., and 49 USC Chapters 301, 305 and 321 to 331, 61 inclusive, as amended from time to time, and any provision of the 62 general statutes enacted to attain compliance with said federal acts;
  - (B) In the normal course of business by the requesting party, but only to confirm the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the requesting party;
  - (C) In connection with any civil, criminal, administrative or arbitral proceeding in any court or government agency or before any selfregulatory body, including the service of process, an investigation in anticipation of litigation by an attorney-at-law or any individual acting on behalf of an attorney-at-law and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of any court provided the requesting party is a party in interest to such proceeding;
  - (D) In connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft, motor vehicle emissions, motor vehicle product alterations, recalls or advisories, performance monitoring of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts and dealers, motor vehicle market research activities including survey research, motor vehicle product and service communications, and removal of nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers, provided the personal information is not published, disclosed or used to contact individuals except as permitted under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision;
  - (E) By any insurer or insurance support organization or by a selfinsured entity or its agents, employees or contractors, in connection

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- 84 with the investigation of claims arising under insurance policies, 85 antifraud activities, rating or underwriting;
  - (F) In providing any notice required by law to owners or lienholders named in the certificate of title of towed, abandoned or impounded motor vehicles;
- 89 (G) By an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify 90 information relating to a holder of a passenger endorsement or 91 commercial driver's license required under [the federal Commercial 92 Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, 49 USC [2304 et seq.] Chapter 313, 93 and sections 14-44 to 14-44m, inclusive;
  - (H) In connection with any lawful purpose of a labor organization, as defined in section 31-77, provided (i) such organization has entered into a contract with the commissioner, on such terms and conditions as the commissioner may require, and (ii) the information will be used only for the purposes specified in the contract other than campaign or political purposes;
  - (I) For bulk distribution for surveys, marketing or solicitations provided the commissioner has obtained the express consent of the individual to whom such personal information pertains;
    - (J) For the purpose of preventing fraud by verifying the accuracy of personal information contained in a motor vehicle record, including an individual's photograph or computerized image, as submitted by an individual to a legitimate business or an agent, employee or contractor of a legitimate business, provided the individual has provided express consent in accordance with subdivision [(4)] (5) of subsection (a) of this section.
- 110 Sec. 4. Section 14-16c of the general statutes is repealed and the 111 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):
- 112 (a) (1) Any insurance company which takes possession of a motor 113 vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued in this state or in

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any other state, that has been declared a total loss [, in] and that is offered for sale by such insurance company, or its agent as a result of the settlement of a claim for damage or theft, shall stamp the word "SALVAGE" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length on the vehicle's certificate of title and shall attach to such certificate of title a copy of the appraiser's damage report used for the calculation of the total damage or of the settlement amount for such totaled motor vehicle, except that if the insurance company determines that such motor vehicle has ten or more major component parts which are damaged beyond repair and must be replaced, the insurance company shall stamp the words "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" in oneinch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length on the vehicle's certificate of title. A copy of such certificate shall be sent by the insurance company to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(2) Any person, firm or corporation which is a self-insurer and owns a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued in this state or in any other state, that has been declared a total loss and that is offered for sale by such self-insurer or its agent, shall stamp the word "SALVAGE" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length on the vehicle's certificate of title and shall attach to such certificate of title a copy of the appraiser's damage report used for the calculation of the total damage or of the settlement amount for such totaled motor vehicle, except that if such self-insurer determines that such motor vehicle has ten or more major component parts which are damaged beyond repair and must be replaced, the self-insurer shall stamp the words "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length on the motor vehicle's certificate of title. Any person, firm or corporation which is insured other than by means of self-insurance and owns such a motor vehicle, shall forward the vehicle's certificate of title to the company insuring such vehicle or the company paying the totalled claim. Such insurer shall stamp the word "SALVAGE" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three inches in length on the certificate of title except that if the insurance company determines that such motor vehicle has ten or more major component

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- 148 parts which are damaged beyond repair and must be replaced, the
- 149 insurer taking possession of such motor vehicle shall stamp the words
- 150 "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" in one-inch-high letters not to exceed three
- 151 inches in length on the motor vehicle's certificate of title and shall
- 152 return such certificate to such person, firm or corporation. A copy of
- 153 such certificate shall be sent by the person, firm or corporation to the
- 154 Department of Motor Vehicles.
- 155 (3) For purposes of this subsection, "major component part" shall
- 156 have the same meaning as provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
- 157 of section 14-149a.
- 158 (b) Any insurance company taking possession of a motor vehicle in
- 159 accordance with subsection (a) of this section or any person, firm or
- 160 corporation which owns such motor vehicle shall copy the stamped
- 161 certificate and give the original of such certificate, with a copy of the
- 162 appraiser's damage report used for the calculation of the damage or
- 163 settlement attached to it, to any subsequent purchaser of the motor
- 164 vehicle that has been declared a total loss. The name and address of
- 165 any such purchaser must be recorded on the reverse side of the
- 166 original and the copy. The copy shall serve only as a record of transfers
- of the total loss motor vehicle. 167
- 168 (c) The person, firm, company or corporation required to stamp
- 169 "SALVAGE" on the certificate of title shall stamp the following
- 170 statement on the face of any original or copy of such certificate issued
- 171 in accordance with this section: "WARNING: ALL PURCHASERS OF
- 172 THE MOTOR VEHICLE DESCRIBED HEREIN MUST RECORD
- 173 THEIR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE REVERSE SIDE. THIS
- 174 VEHICLE CANNOT BE REGISTERED OR RETITLED WITHOUT
- 175 PASSING **INSPECTION** UNDER **SECTION** 14-103a. THIS
- 176 DOCUMENT BE**SUBMITTED** AT THE TIME OF MUST
- 177 INSPECTION."
- 178 (d) No motor vehicle for which a copy has been made in accordance
- 179 with this section may be operated upon any highway in this state,

except that an owner of any such motor vehicle who is a motor vehicle dealer or repairer licensed under the provisions of section 14-52 may operate such vehicle for the purpose of presenting the vehicle for inspection pursuant to section 14-103a. If such vehicle fails to comply with the minimum standards, it shall be transported from the site of such inspection. If any such motor vehicle is rebuilt for sale or use, the owner shall apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for an original certificate of title and present the vehicle for inspection pursuant to section 14-103a. The certificate of title issued in accordance with this section must be presented at the time of inspection, unless waived by the commissioner for good cause.

- (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, a motor vehicle for which a certificate of title has been issued in this state, that has been declared a total loss in settlement of a claim for theft, having no damage to a major component part or having damage not exceeding (1) fifteen per cent of the retail value of such motor vehicle, as determined in accordance with the provisions of section 38a-353, or (2) one thousand dollars as evidenced by an insurance adjuster's damage appraisal report, shall not be required to have its certificate of title stamped in accordance with the provisions of this section provided proof of such damage or lack of damage to a major component part, is attached to such certificate.
- (f) No insurance company and no firm or corporation which is a self-insurer may sell <u>or transfer</u> any totalled or salvaged motor vehicle, major component parts or any other parts of a motor vehicle to any person, firm or corporation which is not licensed under the provisions of subparts (D) or (H) of part III of this chapter. No person, firm or corporation licensed as a new or used car dealer who holds a permit pursuant to the provisions of section 14-65 may sell <u>or transfer</u> any totalled or salvaged motor vehicle with a certificate of title stamped "SALVAGE PARTS ONLY" or any motor vehicle which has ten or more major component parts damaged beyond repair and in need of replacement to any person, firm or corporation which is not licensed under the provisions of subpart (H) of part III of this chapter or under

- violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute an unfair
- 216 method of competition and an unfair or deceptive act or practice, as
- 217 defined by section 42-110b.
- 218 (g) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in 219 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 to implement the
- 220 provisions of this section.

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- Sec. 5. Section 14-55 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):
  - In any town, city or borough the local authorities referred to in section 14-54 shall, upon receipt of an application for a certificate of approval referred to in said section, assign the same for hearing within sixty-five days of the receipt of such application. Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in such town, city or borough at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen, nor less than ten days, and the last not less than two days before the date of such hearing and sent by certified mail to the applicant not less than fifteen days before the date of such hearing. All decisions on such certificate of approval shall be rendered within sixty-five days of such hearing. The applicant may consent to one or more extensions of any period specified in this section, provided the total extension of any such period shall not be for longer than the original period as specified in this section. The reasons for granting or denying such application shall be stated by the board or official. Notice of the decision shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in such town, city or borough and sent by certified mail to the applicant within fifteen days after such decision has been rendered. Such applicant shall pay a fee of ten dollars, together with the costs of publication and expenses of such hearing, to the treasurer of such town, city or borough. No such certificate shall be issued until the application has been approved and such location has been found suitable for the business intended, with due consideration to its location in reference to

schools, churches, theaters, traffic conditions, width of highway and effect on public travel. In any case in which such approval has been previously granted for any location, the local authority may waive the requirement of a hearing on a subsequent application. In addition, the local authority may waive the requirement of a hearing on an application wherein the previously approved location of a place of business is to be enlarged to include adjoining or adjacent property.

Sec. 6. Section 14-69 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

No person shall engage in the business of conducting a drivers' school without being licensed therefor by the commissioner. Application therefor shall be in writing and shall contain such information as the commissioner requires. Each applicant shall be fingerprinted before such application is approved. If the application is approved, the applicant shall be granted a license upon the payment of a fee of one hundred dollars and a deposit with the commissioner of cash or a bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this state, conditioned on the faithful performance by the applicant of any contract to furnish instruction, in either case in such amount as the commissioner may require, such cash or bond to be held by the commissioner to satisfy any execution issued against such school in a cause arising out of failure of such school to perform such contract. [On and after July 1, 1985, the] The license fee shall be [one hundred fifty dollars, on and after July 1, 1989, two hundred twenty-five dollars, on and after July 1, 1991, two hundred eighty dollars, and on and after July 1, 1993,] three hundred fifty dollars. For each additional place of business of such school, the commissioner shall charge a fee of Itwenty-five dollars and, on and after July 1, 1985, thirty-eight dollars, on and after July 1, 1989, fifty-six dollars, on and after July 1, 1991, seventy dollars, and on and after July 1, 1993,] eighty-eight dollars. No license shall be required in the case of any board of education, or any public, private or parochial school, which conducts a course in driver education [approved by the State Board of Education or any person or school which gives instruction in any form or manner in the operation

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of other than private motor vehicles for compensation and is under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education as provided in section 10-8] established in accordance with sections 14-36e and 14-36f. A license so issued shall be valid during the calendar year. The annual fee for renewal shall be the same amount and the same deposit of security shall be required. The commissioner shall issue a license certificate or certificates to each licensee, one of which shall be displayed in each place of business of the licensee. In case of the loss, mutilation or destruction of a certificate, the commissioner shall issue a duplicate upon proof of the facts and the payment of a fee of two dollars. [On and after July 1, 1985, such] Such fee shall be [three dollars, on and after July 1, 1989, four dollars and fifty cents, on and after July 1, 1991, five dollars and seventy-five cents, and on and after July 1, 1993,] seven dollars.

- Sec. 7. Section 14-149 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):
- (a) No person shall purchase, sell or have in such person's possession any motor vehicle, including construction equipment, or a major component part thereof, as defined in section 14-67h, or agricultural tractors or farm implements with a mutilated, altered or removed vehicle identification, factory or engine number or a number which shows evidence of having been tampered with, except as hereinafter provided.
- (b) Any officer attached to an organized police department, any state police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles, upon discovery of any motor vehicle, including construction equipment, or major component part thereof, as defined in section 14-67h, or agricultural tractors or farm implements, the vehicle identification, engine or factory number of which has been mutilated, altered or removed, shall take such motor vehicle or major component part if not affixed to such vehicle, or agricultural tractor or farm implement into [such officer's] custody. [Any] Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, any such motor vehicle or major

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component part or agricultural tractor or farm implement shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of section 54-36a, and in the case of a motor vehicle for which the owner, registration or title has been identified, a report of such action shall be made to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Such officer or inspector may take into custody the operator of such motor vehicle or agricultural tractor or farm implement or person in possession of such part and present such operator or person before a proper court. No such operator or person shall be discharged from custody until such operator or person has proved to the satisfaction of the court the ownership of such motor vehicle or such part or such agricultural tractor or farm implement and such operator's or person's right to its custody, provided any such operator or person may be admitted to bail pending proceedings thereon. If such operator or person is unable to establish ownership of such motor vehicle or such part or such agricultural tractor or farm implement to the satisfaction of the court, the court shall order such motor vehicle or part to be forfeited and turned over to the police department or agency whose officer or inspector seized such motor vehicle or part or agricultural tractor or farm implement to be used for such department or agency's purposes or sold at auction with the proceeds given to such department or agency. No officer or inspector shall be personally liable for any official act [done] performed under the provisions of this section.

(c) Any inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles, upon discovery of any motor vehicle or major component part, the vehicle identification, engine or factory number of which has been mutilated, altered or removed in the possession of any licensee of the department, including a new or used care dealer who has been issued an auction permit in accordance with the provisions of section 14-65, or a motor vehicle dealer or repairer authorized to tow or transport and store motor vehicles in accordance with the provisions of section 14-66, shall take such motor vehicle or major component part into custody. If the motor vehicle or major component part is owned by any such licensee or an insurance company, or if such licensee or insurance company has

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- 349 part, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may, upon receipt of
- 350 transfer of title or forfeiture of all right and interest therein and
- 351 <u>notwithstanding the method of disposition required under subsection</u>
- 352 (b) of this section, make any disposition of such motor vehicle or major
- 353 <u>component part that the commissioner deems necessary or advisable.</u>
- 354 The provisions of this subsection shall apply to construction
- 355 equipment, agricultural tractors or farm implements, the vehicle
- 356 identification, engine or factory number of which has been mutilated,
- 357 altered or removed.
- [(c)] (d) Any officer attached to an organized police department, any
- 359 <u>state police officer or inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles,</u>
- 360 upon discovery of any motor vehicle, construction equipment,
- agricultural tractor or farm implement which has been reported as
- 362 stolen, shall take such motor vehicle, construction equipment,
- agricultural tractor or farm implement into [such officer's] custody and
- have it returned to its rightful owner or, if such owner cannot be
- 365 determined or if such motor vehicle, construction equipment,
- agricultural tractor or farm implement is needed for evidence, shall
- 367 have it taken to and stored in a suitable place.
- 368 [(d)] (e) No motor vehicle shall be registered unless it has
- 369 permanently cut, impressed or embossed on some portion thereof a
- 370 factory, serial or identification number or mark. Any person who
- 371 knowingly has in such person's possession any motor vehicle,
- 372 construction equipment, agricultural tractor or farm implement from 373 which the factory, serial or other identification number has been
- 374 removed, defaced, obliterated or changed shall [forthwith]
- immediately file with the commissioner a sworn statement describing
- 376 such motor vehicle, construction equipment, agricultural tractor or
- farm implement and showing the source of such person's title and, if
- 378 known, the reason for such removal, defacement, obliteration or
- 379 change, together with a fee in the amount of fifty dollars. If satisfied as
- 380 to the facts, the commissioner may grant permission to cut, impress or
- 381 emboss permanently into the motor of such motor vehicle,

- construction equipment, agricultural tractor or farm implement a special identification number or mark which shall thereafter be deemed sufficient for the purpose of registration of such motor vehicle, construction equipment, agricultural tractor or farm implement. No person shall wilfully remove, deface, obliterate or change or cause to be removed, obliterated, defaced or changed any factory, serial or other identification number or mark on or from any motor vehicle, construction equipment, agricultural tractor or farm implement.
- 390 [(e)] (f) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, 391 for the first offense, be fined not more than two thousand five hundred 392 dollars or imprisoned not more than three years, or both, and, for the 393 second or subsequent offense, be fined not more than five thousand 394 dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.
  - Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 14-227f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2003):
    - (a) Any person whose motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege is suspended under subsection (g) of section 14-227a for a conviction of a [second or subsequent] violation of subsection (a) of said section or under section 14-227b for a second or subsequent time shall participate in a treatment program approved by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The commissioner shall not reinstate the operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of any such person until such person submits evidence to the commissioner that he has satisfactorily completed the treatment program.
- 408 Sec. 9. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2003) (a) On and after January 1, 409 2004, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue Childhood 410 Cancer Awareness commemorative number plates of a design to 411 enhance public awareness of state efforts to treat and cure childhood 412 cancer. The design shall be determined by agreement between the 413 Commissioner of Public Health and the Commissioner of Motor

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- Vehicles. No use shall be made of such plates except as official registration marker plates.
- 416 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish, by 417 regulations adopted, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general 418 statutes, a fee to be charged for Childhood Cancer Awareness 419 commemorative number plates in addition to the regular fee or fees 420 prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. The fee shall be for 421 such number plates with letters and numbers selected by the 422 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor 423 Vehicles may establish a higher fee for: (1) Such number plates which 424 contain letters in place of numbers as authorized by section 14-49 of 425 the general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates 426 issued under said section 14-49; and (2) such number plates which are 427 low number plates, in accordance with section 14-160 of the general 428 statutes, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued 429 under said section 14-160. All fees established and collected pursuant 430 to this section shall be deposited in the childhood cancer account, 431 established pursuant to section 10 of this act.
  - (c) No additional renewal fee shall be charged for renewal of registration for any motor vehicle bearing Childhood Cancer Awareness commemorative number plates which contain letters in place of numbers, or low number plates, in excess of the renewal fee for Childhood Cancer Awareness commemorative number plates with letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. No transfer fee shall be charged for transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with Childhood Cancer Awareness commemorative number plates.
    - (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of Childhood Cancer Awareness commemorative number plates.

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- Sec. 10. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2003) (a) There is established an account to be known as the "childhood cancer account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account.
- (b) The moneys in said account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for the purposes of: (1) Providing funding to the pediatric oncology units at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital; (2) innovative community programs to further the goals of treating and curing childhood cancer; (3) allocation of grants to agencies, institutions or persons to conduct research, provide public education, establish outreach programs and enhance public awareness of cancer issues with regard to children; and (4) reimbursement of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of producing, issuing, renewing and replacing Childhood Cancer Awareness number plates, including administrative expenses, pursuant to section 14-21f of the general statutes.
- (c) The secretary may receive private donations to said account and any such receipts shall be deposited in the account.
  - (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may provide for the reproduction and marketing of the Childhood Cancer Awareness number plate image for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs deemed by the commissioner to be suitable as a means of supporting the childhood cancer awareness account. Any moneys received by the commissioner from such marketing shall be deposited in said account.
  - Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2003) (a) On and after January 1, 2004, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall issue wildlife conservation commemorative number plates of a design to enhance public awareness of efforts to conserve wildlife species and their habitats in Connecticut. The design shall be determined by agreement

between the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. No use shall be made of such plates except as official registration marker plates.

- (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, which shall provide for a one-time fee of fifty dollars to be charged for wildlife conservation commemorative number plates, in addition to the regular fee or fees prescribed for the registration of a motor vehicle. Fifteen dollars of said one-time fee shall be deposited in an account controlled by the Department of Motor Vehicles to be used for administrative costs of carrying out the provisions of this section. Such number plates shall have letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may establish a higher fee for: (1) Such number plates which contain letters in place of numbers as authorized by section 14-49 of the general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said section 14-49; and (2) such number plates which are low number plates, in accordance with section 14-160 of the general statutes, in addition to the fee or fees prescribed for plates issued under said section 14-160. All fees established and collected pursuant to this section, except moneys designated for administrative costs of the Department of Motor Vehicles, shall be deposited in the wildlife conservation account established pursuant to section 12 of this act.
- (c) A renewal fee of fifteen dollars shall be charged for renewal of registration of a motor vehicle bearing a wildlife conservation commemorative number plate, in addition to the regular fee or fees prescribed for renewal of registration of a motor vehicle. Five dollars of the renewal fee shall be designated for administrative costs of the Department of Motor Vehicles. No additional renewal fee shall be charged for renewal of registration for any motor vehicle bearing a wildlife conservation commemorative number plate which contain letters in place of numbers, or low number plates, in excess of the renewal fee for wildlife conservation commemorative number plates with letters and numbers selected by the Commissioner of Motor

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- Vehicles. No transfer fee shall be charged for transfer of an existing registration to or from a registration with wildlife conservation
- 514 commemorative number plates.

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- (d) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish standards and procedures for the issuance, renewal and replacement of wildlife conservation commemorative number plates.
  - (e) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to obtain wildlife conservation program commemorative number plates by including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals and by posting appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and offices. The notices, posters and signs shall be designed by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in consultation with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
  - Sec. 12. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2003) (a) There is established an account to be known as the "wildlife conservation account". The wildlife conservation account shall be an account of the Conservation Fund established under section 22a-27h of the general statutes. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund and credited to the wildlife conservation account. Any balance remaining in the account at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in the account for the fiscal year next succeeding. The account shall be available to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection for: (1) Matching federal and private wildlife conservation funds; (2) providing grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for wildlife conservation purposes; (3) wildlife research and management, with an emphasis on those wildlife species in greatest need of conservation; (4) wildlife inventory and restoration; (5) wildlife habitat acquisition, restoration, enhancement and management, including, but not limited to, the conservation of grasslands and other early successional habitats; and (6) public

- (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may receive private donations to the wildlife conservation account and any such receipts shall be deposited in the account.
- (c) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may provide for the reproduction and marketing of the wildlife conservation commemorative number plate image for use on clothing, recreational equipment, posters, mementoes, or other products or programs deemed by the commissioner to be suitable as a means of supporting the wildlife conservation account. Any funds received by the commissioner from such marketing shall be deposited in the wildlife conservation account.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2003
Sec. 2	October 1, 2003
Sec. 3	July 1, 2003
Sec. 4	October 1, 2003
Sec. 5	October 1, 2003
Sec. 6	October 1, 2003
Sec. 7	October 1, 2003
Sec. 8	October 1, 2003
Sec. 9	October 1, 2003
Sec. 10	October 1, 2003
Sec. 11	October 1, 2003
Sec. 12	October 1, 2003

TRA Joint Favorable Subst.

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